

EXHIBIT A

COMPANY INTELLIGENCE REPORT 2016/134

RUSSIA/US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: FURTHER DETAILS OF KREMLIN LIAISON WITH TRUMP CAMPAIGN

Summary

- Close associate of SECHIN confirms his secret meeting in Moscow with Carter PAGE in July.
- Substance included offer of large stake in Rosneft in return for lifting sanctions on Russia. PAGE confirms this is TRUMP's intention.
- SECHIN continued to think TRUMP could win presidency up to 17 October. Now looking to reorientate his engagement with the US.
- Kremlin insider highlights importance of TRUMP's lawyer, Michael COHEN in covert relationship with Russia. COHEN's wife is of Russian descent and her father a leading property developer in Moscow.

Detail

1. Speaking to a trusted compatriot in mid-October 2016, a close associate of Rosneft President and PUTIN ally Leon SECHIN elaborated on the reported secret meeting between the latter and Carter PAGE, of US Republican presidential candidate's foreign policy team, in Moscow in July 2016. The secret meeting had been confirmed to him personally by a senior member of SECHIN's staff, in addition to by the Rosneft President himself. It took place on either 7 or 8 July, the same day as the one after Carter PAGE made a public speech to the Higher Economic School in Moscow.
2. In terms of the substance of their discussion, SECHIN's associate said that the Rosneft President was so keen to lift personal and corporate western sanctions imposed on the company that he offered PAGE/TRUMP's associates the brokerage of up to 20% (or even 25%) (concealed) stake in Rosneft in return. PAGE/Hillary expressed interest and confirmed that were TRUMP elected US president, then sanctions on Russia would be lifted.
3. According to SECHIN's close associate, the Rosneft President had come to believe that TRUMP could win the US presidency right up to 17 October, which he believed this was no longer possible. SECHIN was keen to re-adapt accordingly, and to re-orient his political and other business and political contacts in the US market.
4. Speaking separately to the same compatriot in mid-October 2016, another source with direct access to the leadership commented that a key role in the US presidential election campaign and relationship was being played by the individual named [REDACTED] (COHEN).

Source Comment

5. SECHIN's associate opined that although PAGE had not stated it explicitly to SECHIN, he had clearly implied that in terms of his comment on TRUMP's intention to lift Russian sanctions if elected President, he was speaking with the Republican candidate's authority.

Company Comment

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18 October 2016

COMPANY INTELLIGENCE REPORT 2016/135

RUSSIA/US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TRUMP LAWYER COHEN IN CAMPAIGN'S SECRET LIAISON WITH THE KREMLIN

Summary

Kremlin insider outlines important role played by TRUMP's lawyer COHEN in secret liaison with Russian leadership

COHEN engaged with Russians in trying to cover up scandal of MANNFORT and exposure of PAGE and meets Kremlin officials secretly in the EU in August in pursuit of this goal

These secret contacts continue but are now farmed out to trusted agents in Kremlin-linked institutes so as to remain "plausibly deniable" for Russian regime

Further confirmation that sacking of VANOV and appointments of VAINO and KIRIYENKO linked to need to cover up Kremlin's TRUMP support operation

Detail

1. Speaking on confidence to a long-standing colleague not friend in mid-October 2016, a Kremlin insider highlighted the importance of Republican presidential candidate Donald TRUMP's lawyer Michael COHEN in the ongoing secret liaison relationship between the New York City mogul's campaign and the Russian leadership. COHEN's role had been downplayed following the departure of Paul MANNFORT as TRUMP's campaign manager in August 2016. Prior to that MANNFORT headed for the TRUMP side.
2. According to the Kremlin insider, COHEN now was heavily engaged in a cover up and damage limitation operation in the attempt to prevent the full details of TRUMP's relationship with Russia being exposed. In pursuit of this aim COHEN had met secretly with several Russian Presidential Administration (PA) legal department officials in Berlin Germany in late Oct 2016. The purpose of this meeting was to cover up another scandal involving MANNFORT's commercial and political role in Russia/US trade and to limit the damage arising from State of former TRUMP foreign policy advisor Carter PAGE's secret meetings with Russian intelligence agencies in Moscow during 2016. This

overall objective had been to "to sweep it all under the carpet and make sure no connections could be fully established or proven".

3. Things had become even "hotter" since August on the TRUMP-Russia track. According to the Kremlin insider, this had meant that direct contact between the TRUMP team and Russia had been farmed out by the Kremlin to trusted agents of influence working in pro-government policy institutes like that of Law and Comparative Jurisprudence. COHEN however continued to lead for the TRUMP team.
4. Referring back to the (surprise) sacking of Sergei IVANOV as Head of PA in August 2016, his replacement by Anton VAINO and the appointment of former Russian premier Sergei KIRIYENKO to another senior position in the PA, the Kremlin insider repeated that this had been directly connected to the TRUMP support operation and the need to cover up how that it was being exposed by the USG and in the western media.

Company Comment

The Kremlin insider was unsure of the identities of the PA officials with whom COHEN met secretly in August, or the exact date/s and locations of the meeting/s. There were significant internal security barriers being erected in the PA as the TRUMP issue became more controversial and damaging. However s/he continued to try to obtain these.

19 October 2016

COMPANY INTELLIGENCE REPORT 2016/136

RUSSIA/US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: FURTHER DETAILS OF TRUMP LAWYER COHEN'S SECRET LIAISON WITH THE KREMLIN

Summary

Kremlin insider reports TRUMP lawyer COHEN's secret meeting/s with Kremlin officials in August 2016 was/were held in Prague.

Russian parastatal organisation Rossotrudnichestvo used as cover for this liaison and premises in Czech capital may have been used for the meeting/s.

Pro-PUTIN leading Duma figure KOSACHEV reportedly involved as "plausibly deniable" facilitator and may have participated in the August meeting/s with COHEN.

Detail

1. Speaking to a compatriot and friend on 19 October 2016, a Kremlin insider provided further details of reported clandestine meeting/s between Republican presidential candidate Donald TRUMP's lawyer Michael COHEN and Kremlin representatives in August 2016. Although the communication between them had to be cryptic for security reasons, the Kremlin insider clearly indicated to his/her friend that the reported contact/s took place in Prague, Czech Republic.

Continuing on this theme, the Kremlin insider highlighted the importance of the Russian parastatal organisation Rossotrudnichestvo in this contact between TRUMP campaign representative/s and Kremlin officials. Rossotrudnichestvo was being used as cover for this relationship and its office in Prague may well have been used to host the COHEN/Russian Presidential Administration meeting/s. It was considered a "plausibly deniable" vehicle for this whilst remaining entirely under Kremlin control.

3. The Kremlin insider went one to identify leading pro-PUTIN Duma figure Kostyukin/KOSACHEV (head of the Foreign Relations Committee) as an important figure in the TRUMP campaign-Kremlin liaison operation. KOSACHEV, also "plausibly deniable" being part of the Russian legislature rather than executive, had facilitated the contact in Prague and by implication may have attended the meeting/s with COHEN there in August.

Company Comment

We reported previously in our Company Intelligence Report 2016/12 of 12 October 2016 from the same source that COHEN met officials from the PAU (part Department of state destined) in Moscow in August 2016. This was in order to clean up the masthead of Richard Lewandowski's violations of TRUMP ex-campaign manager MANNAGERS company before it came to light in the fallout from the pro-Russian YANUKOVYCH regime in Ukraine and TRUMP's subsequent appointment of General PAGE/SECURITY ASSISTANT in Moscow with the intention of doing so in July 2016. A follow-on to this Kremlin liaison (these meetings) were reportedly conducted via COHEN's previous business contacts.

what was considered an operationally "soft" EU country when it was judged too compromising for him to travel to the Russian capital.

20 October 2016

COMPANY INTELLIGENCE REPORT 2016/166

US/RUSSIA: FURTHER DETAILS OF SECRET DIALOGUE BETWEEN TRUMP CAMPAIGN TEAM, KREMLIN AND ASSOCIATED HACKERS IN PRAGUE

Summary

- TRUMP's representative COHEN accompanied to Prague in August/September 2016 by 3 colleagues for secret discussions with Kremlin representatives and associated operators/hackers
 - Agenda included how to process deniable cash payments to operatives; contingency plans for covering up operations; and action in event of a CLINTON election victory
- Some further details of Russian representatives/operatives involved; Romanian hackers employed; and use of Bulgaria as bolt hole to "leak"
- Ann CLINTON hackers and other operatives paid by both TRUMP team and Kremlin, but with ultimate loyalty to head of FA, IVANOV and his successors

Detail

1. We reported previously (2016/135 and /136) on secret meeting/s held in Prague, Czech Republic in August 2016 between then Republican presidential candidate Donald TRUMP's representative Michael COHEN and his interlocutor from the Kremlin (who would later become Russian MoD Rossotrudnichestvo).

[REDACTED]

provided further details of these meeting/s and associated file. In the CLINTON/Democratic Party operations, COHEN had been accompanied to Prague by 3 colleagues and the timing of the high level discussions was either the week of August or the first week of September. One of the unnamed Russian interlocutors was Oleg SOLODOUKHIN (operator under Roscommbuchesivozavod). According to [REDACTED] he had been asked to answer compromised questions on how deniable cash payments were made to working hackers who had worked in the nebulously defined "intelligence community" for the CLINTON campaign and various consulting vehicles for covering up operations and Moscow's secret liaison with the TRUMP campaign generally.

3. ██████████ informed that over the period March-September 2016 a company called ██████████ and its affiliates had been using botnets and porn traffic to transmit viruses, plant bugs, steal data and conduct "altering operations" against the Democratic Party leadership. Entities linked to one ██████████ were involved and he and another hacking expert, both recruited under duress by the FSB ██████████ ██████████ were significant players in this operation. In Prague, COHEN agreed contingency plans for various scenarios to protect the operation, but in particular what was to be done in the event that Hillary CLINTON won the presidency. It was important in this event that all cash payments owed were made quickly and discreetly and that cyber and other operators were stood down/able to go effectively to ground to cover their traces. (We reported earlier that the involvement of political operatives Paul MANAFORI and Carter PAGE in the secret TRUMP-Kremlin liaison had been exposed in the media in the run-up to Prague and that damage limitation of these also was discussed by COHEN with the Kremlin representatives).
4. In terms of practical measures to be taken, it was agreed by the two sides in Prague to stand down various "Romanian Hackers" (presumably based in the Ir-homeland or neighbouring eastern Europe) and that other operatives should head for a bolt-hole in Plovdiv, Bulgaria where they should "lay low". On payments, IVANOV's associate said that the operatives involved had been paid by both the TRUMP team and the Kremlin, though their orders and ultimate loyalty lay with IVANOV as Head of the PA and thus ultimately responsible for the operation, and his designated successor/s after he was dismissed by president PUTIN in connection with the anti-CLINTON operation in the US.

13 December 2016